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232 *Equine Contagious Disease.*—In February, sudden deaths amongst the hackney carriage horses occurred, and, as a result of post-mortems, African horse sickness was suspected. By taking prompt precautionary measures, the disease was confined to Crater. Nine deaths were recorded.

Three segregation camps for cattle are being constructed, two at Sheikh Othman and one at Maala.

Fisheries

226 Fishing is, generally speaking, good, but the quantity of fish caught is greatly influenced by the movements of the different species of sardinella on which the large species feed. Shark, barracuda, horse-mackerel, sea-perch, dolphins, the smaller members of the tunny family, rock cod soles, and mullet are the principal edible fish. Sword or sail fish make their appearance at certain seasons of the year, but are not easily saleable for human consumption. Crabs and crawfish are to be had at all seasons, and oysters are available in the winter months. The fishermen are a very industrious people and employ various kinds of nets as well as hand-lines in their work. The nets used are of the stationary, circular throwing, and drag varieties, the latter being used from the shore. In addition a special net is operated from boats working in pairs during the monsoon period. Throwing nets for mullet, mackerel and a form of whitebait are also in use. The catch is at times greater than the requirements for local consumption, and the surplus is salted for export. Shark is almost invariably treated in this manner, and during some seasons large quantities are dried. Whitebait is exported.

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The fishermen are subject to certain rules which forbid trawls and limit the size of nets, and in addition they defer to the judgment of their elected Akils in matters of fishing custom.

228 Licences to dive for pearls both in the harbour and in the waters of Perim are obligatory, but no licences are required to fish.

Salt

258 A salt work was first constructed by the Italian firm of Messrs. Gaustalla and Company (now styled The Aden Salt Works) in the year 1885, and it carries on a profitable business in salt production at Sheikh Othman. This was followed by the salt work constructed in 1909 by the Bombay firm of Messrs. Abdullabhoy and Joomabhoy Lalljee and Company. Two more salt works have since been constructed by Messrs. Hajeebhoy Laljee and Company and the Little Aden Salt Industrial Company in May, 1923, and October, 1927, respectively, and they continue to work successfully. The
439 total quantity of salt exported to India and other places during
655 the last year was 230,379 tons. The monopoly of salt for local consumption is in the hands of Government, who have licensed certain pits to Arabs at Sheikh Othman.